THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the surveys were of preliminary nature it is too early to comment on the petroleum prospects of the area.

[*English*]

Difficulties Faced by Traditional Fishermen

1321. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conflicts between the traditional fishermen and the trawlers over the area of fishing in Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been resolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to restrict the area of fishing for the trawlers in these two States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The conflicts between traditional fishermen and trawlers in Kerala have been resolved. The Government have no reports about conflict between traditional fishermen and trawlers in Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d). On the basis of the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India, the Kerala Government has issued a notification under the Kerala marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 according to which the mechanised boats are authorised to fish only beyond 30m. depth from Paravoor-Poozhikkara to Killangode and beyond 20m. depth from Paravoor Poozhikkara to Manjeswaram. Tamil Nadu Government also has enacted similar legislation demarcating the area extending upto 3 nautical miles from the coast line exclusively for traditional fishermen.

Production of Benzene in Cochin Refinery

1322. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for increasing the production of Benzene in Cochin Refineries; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal of Cochin Refinery Limited for augmenting the production of benzene is under the consideration of the Government.

LPG Connections in Kerala

1323. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas connections allotted from January 1, 1991 to September 30, 1991 in Kerala;

(b) the number of applications pending for gas connections upto September 30, 1991; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of expedite the release of gas connections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) About 28120.

(b) About 121520.

(c) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

Flood Control Projects in Bihar

1324. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER